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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Artist Meets Archives: Ronit Porat – *PARADIESVOGEL***

**(4 May to 14 July 2019)**

**Press conversation during the press bus tour: Thu, 2 May 2019, 12:15pm**

As part of the 'Artist Meets Archive' residency programme that is part of the Internationale Photoszene Köln, the Israeli artist Ronit Porat delved into the prints collection of the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum for several weeks, setting off on an imaginary journey. Her focus was on picture postcards from the years 1918–1938, which are among the almost 20,000 postcards in the museum collection. She created new stories and illuminated historical boundaries with her collage-like and at times Dadaist photomontage method. The masterfully arranged postcards reveal a new, curious Cologne of the inter-war years. A Cologne that questions much of what superficially seems familiar.

The artist Ronit Porat (b. 1975), who lives in Tel Aviv, has spent some time now focusing on archive materials and women's biographies from the first half of the 20th century – and on the question: how do archives create history? She arranges historical discoveries with her own photographs in her works. In the process she intertwines collective history with her personal story, blurring the boundaries between the past and the present. By using visual materials that have been ripped from their context, she questions our understanding of how to read a photograph and opens up exciting new levels of significance.

During her research in the prints collection Ronit Porat came across the legacy of Luise Straus-Ernst (1893–1944/Auschwitz concentration camp). The story of this impressive journalist, artist and curator, one of the central figures of the Rhineland art scene of the 1920s, forms an important starting point for her narratives. In addition to her research in the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum Ronit Porat also took another, unusual path in search of artistic elements and stories. She ran a billboard event in the city, inviting people in Cologne to send her a postcard containing a secret. Several replies found their way into Ronit Porat's letterbox.

The exhibition will be presented to the press on **Thursday, 2 May 2019** as part of a **bus tour at 12:15pm** organized by the Internationale Photoszene Köln. The artist Ronit Porat and the curator Rita Wagner will be present to take questions (accreditation via email: [presse@photoszene.de](mailto:presse@photoszene.de)).

In addition to the official Photoszene festival opening on Friday, 3 May 2019, 7pm, in the Museum Ludwig the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum also invites you to a **launch event** in the exhibition itself entitled **'SPOT ON: Ronit Porat – PARADIESVOGEL'** on Saturday, **4 May 2019, 6–8pm**.

The exhibition is supported by CAT Cologne e.V. and others.

Alongside Ronit Porat's works the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum will be displaying further photographic exhibitions from 4 May 2019, also in co-operation with the Internationale Photoszene Köln. There will be a separate press conference on 'YOU ARE HERE. Versuche einer fotografischen Standortbestimmung, Teil 1' on 8 May 2019, 11am. The entrance ticket for 5 euros (concession 3 euros) gives visitors access to both exhibitions.

You can obtain further information by phone from Dr Wibke Becker, Kölnisches Stadtmuseum, at 0221/221-23030 or via email: [wibke.becker@stadt-koeln.de](mailto:wibke.becker@stadt-koeln.de). You will find visual materials under <http://www.koelnisches-stadtmuseum.de/Presse>, as well as high-resolution images at [www.museenkoeln.info](http://www.museenkoeln.info). More information about the 'Artist Meets Archive' project is available at <https://www.photoszene.de>.

## **KÖLNISCHES STADTMUSEUM**

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## **OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday: 10–20 h

Wednesday to Sunday: 10–17 h

## **ENTRANCE FEES**

Adults: 5 €

Students: 3 €

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